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TPM-PLANE ATTACK; 4TH LD; A058;320

URGENT

EDS: MARSHAL SAYS JETLINER TRIED TO FLEE; IGNORES QUESTION WHY SOVIETS FAILED TO IDENTIFY IT AS PASSENGER JET; CORRECTS GENERAL TO MARSHAL; BODY OF CHILD FOUND; NEW INFO-EDITING GRAFS 1-12

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A TOP KREMLIN MILITARY OFFICER TODAY SAID A U.S. SPY PLANE RENDEZVOUSED WITH THE SOUTH KOREAN JETLINER SHOT DOWN BY A SOVIET JET AND CLAIMED THAT THE DOOMED AIRCRAFT ENTERED SOVIET AIRSPACE ON WASHINGTON'S ORDERS.

IN A RARE NEWS CONFERENCE AT THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY TELEVISED OVERSEAS, SOVIET MILITARY CHIEF OF STAFF MARSHAL NIKOLAI V. OGARKOV TOLD FOREIGN REPORTERS THAT SOVIET DEFENSE FORCES DETECTED THE KOREAN AIR LINES BOEING 747 FLYING SIDE BY SIDE WITH AN AMERICAN RC-135 SURVEILLANCE AIRCRAFT FOR 10 MINUTES NEAR A SENSITIVE SOVIET MILITARY ZONE IN THE SEA OF JAPAN. HE SAID THE JETLINER LATER TRIED TO FLEE WHEN INTERCEPTORS SCRAMBLED TO MEET IT.

THE UNITED STATES HAS ADMITTED THAT AN RC-135 SPY PLANE WAS IN THE AREA THE DAY OF THE SHOOTING, BUT CLAIMS IT WAS HUNDREDS OF MILES AWAY ON THE GROUND IN ALASKA ONE HOUR BEFORE THE JETLINER WAS SHOT DOWN SEPT 1.

ASKED BY AN AMERICAN REPORTER WHY THE SOVIETS COULDN'T IDENTIFY A JUMBO JET, AND WHY IN ANY EVENT THE PLANE CARRYING 269 PEOPLE, INCLUDING 61 AMERICANS, WAS SHOT DOWN, OGARKOV REPLIED:

"THE SOVIET AIR FORCES MADE ATTEMPTS TO MAKE IT LAND BUT THE PLANE EVADED, ALTERED COURSE. . . ALL POSSIBILITIES WERE EXHAUSTED AND ONLY THEN WAS THE ORDER GIVEN." HE DID NOT SAY WHY THE PLANE COULDN'T BE IDENTIFIED.

THE ELABORATE SOVIET RESPONSE TO WORLD OUTRAGE OVER THE DESTRUCTION OF THE AIRCRAFT CAME AS THE SOVIET UNION FACED A POSSIBLE REBUKE IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND INCREASED RETALIATION ELSEWHERE FOR THE INCIDENT. ALL PEOPLE ABOARD THE JETLINER ARE PRESUMED DEAD.

STANDING IN FRONT OF A DETAILED MAP, OGARKOV SAID THE SOVIET RADAR TRACKERS DETERMINED THAT THE RC-135 PEELED OFF AND FLEW BACK TOWARD ALASKA SHORTLY BEFORE THE JUMBO JET ENTERED SOVIET AIRSPACE, LEAVING THE COMMERCIAL LINER TO PROCEED ALONE.

"OBVIOUSLY THEY FELT THAT PLANE WAS BEING CONTROLLED, PRECISELY CONTROLLED, I WOULD SAY, AND THE ENTRY WAS DELIBERATE," OGARKOV SAID.

EARLIER IN MADRID, SECRETARY OF STATE GEORGE P. SHULTZ CALLED THE SOVIET ACT "SHOCKING TO THE CONSCIENCE OF MANKIND."

JAPANESE POLICE SAID A CHILD'S BODY, WITH GLASS AND METAL FRAGMENTS IMBEDDED IN IT, HAD BEEN FOUND BY FISHERMEN OFF THE NORTHERN COAST OF JAPAN. OFFICERS SAID THE FRAGMENTS INDICATED THE YOUNGSTER MAY HAVE BEEN A PASSENGER ABOARD THE DOWNED JETLINER AND SAID AN AUTOPSY WAS BEING CONDUCTED.

THEY SAID SEARCHERS RECOVERED SEVERAL PIECES OF METAL DEBRIS, APPARENTLY WRECKAGE FROM THE SHATTERED JETLINER.

TASS, THE: 8TH GRAF

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